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1 32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein related parts associated with the
2 part, if any, are recommended by a manufacturer to be replaced along with the part.

1 33. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 scanning the identifier with a scanner; and
3 automatically coupling the scanner to the network application program to provide
4 the identifier thereto.

1 34. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 displaying the replacement information to an end-user.

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1 35. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the identifier of the part is a
2 selected one of a UPC identifier, product-identifier mark, and textual product identifier.

1 36. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 receiving a restriction; and
3 identifying at least one portion of the retrieved replacement information satisfying
4 the user restriction.

1 37. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 obtaining a preference; and
3 arranging the retrieved replacement information according to the preference.

4
1 38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the preference is a selected one
2 of: limiting price, limiting distance to travel to obtain the replacement part, limiting
3 shipping time for the replacement part, limiting time required to install the replacement
4 part, only displaying vendors having the replacement part in stock, and only displaying
5 vendors stocking the replacement part and related parts, if any, that should be replaced
6 along with the first part.

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b 1 39. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising:
2 categorizing the retrieved replacement related information into plural categories;
3 and
4 sorting the categories according to the preference.

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1 40. (New) A method according to claim 37, further comprising:
2 categorizing the retrieved replacement related information into plural categories.

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1 41. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 determining sources from which the replacement part may be obtained;
3 identifying, based at least in part on the replacement information, at least one
4 source having the replacement part in stock; and
5 presenting the sources from which the replacement part may be obtained, said
6 presenting including prominently displaying the at least one source having the
7 replacement part in stock.

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1 42. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein prominently displaying includes
2 sorting the sources from which the replacement part may be obtained so that the at
3 least one source having the replacement part in stock is provided before sources not
4 having the replacement part in stock.

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1 43. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 receiving an oral utterance; and
3 converting the oral utterance into the identifier.

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1 44. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 providing the identifier to the network application program in a selected one of
3 the following formats: a bar-code format, a product-identifier mark, and a verbal
4 identifier.

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1 45. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 determining an equivalence identifier for a substitution part which may be used to
3 replace the part;
4 providing the equivalence identifier to the network application program
5 communicatively coupled with the database, the database also searchable by the
6 equivalence identifier;

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1 46. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

2 determining an equivalence identifier for a substitution part which may be used to
3 replace the part;

4 providing the identifier to the network application program communicatively
5 coupled with a equivalence database searchable by at least the equivalence identifier,
6 the equivalence database associating the substitution part with related substitute parts
7 of the item, if any, that should be replaced along with the first part.

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1 47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the database and the equivalence
2 database are separate databases.

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1 48. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising:
2 semantically analyzing the retrieved replacement information; and
3 reorganizing the retrieved replacement information according to the analyzing.

4
1 49. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 determining a geographic location for the part;
3 identifying vendors of the replacement part, each vendor having a geographic
4 location; and
5 sorting the vendors according to their geographic proximity to the part.

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1 50. (New) A method according to claim 31, further comprising:
2 providing a proximity preference, such preference set to a user election if such
3 election has been made, otherwise to a default value; and

4 culling the retrieved replacement information according to the proximity
5 preference.

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1 51. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 receiving user-specified price terms for a replacement part for the part;
3 identifying vendors of the replacement part based at least in part on the retrieved
4 replacement information;
5 identifying a sales price offered by said vendors for the replacement part; and
6 culling the retrieved replacement information according to the user-specified
7 price terms.

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1 52. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 retrieving from the database replacement related concerns, such concerns
3 including warnings and suggestions for a user seeking to replace the part; and
4 displaying the replacement related concerns.

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1 53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein an expert system interactively
2 displays the replacement related concerns.

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4 54. (New) An article comprising a machine-accessible media having
2 associated data, wherein the data, when accessed, results in a machine performing:
3 determining an identifier for a part requiring replacement;

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4 providing the identifier to a network application program communicatively
5 coupled with a database searchable by at least the identifier, the database associating
6 the part with related parts of the item, if any, that should be replaced along with the part;
7 and
8 retrieving replacement information from the database for the part and related
9 parts of the item, if any, that should be replaced along with the first part.

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1 55. (New) The article of claim 54 wherein the machine-accessible media
2 further includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:
3 scanning the identifier with a scanner; and
4 automatically coupling the scanner to the network application program to provide
5 the identifier thereto.

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1 56. (New) The article of claim 54 wherein the machine-accessible media
2 further includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:
3 determining sources from which the replacement part may be obtained;
4 identifying, based at least in part on the replacement information, at least one
5 source having the replacement part in stock; and
6 presenting the sources from which the replacement part may be obtained, said
7 presenting including prominently displaying the at least one source having the
8 replacement part in stock.

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1 57. (New) The article of claim 54 wherein the machine-accessible media
2 further includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:
3 receiving an oral utterance; and
4 converting the oral utterance into the identifier.

1 58. (New) The article of claim 54 wherein the machine-accessible media
2 further includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:
3 determining an equivalence identifier for a substitution part which may be used to
4 replace the part;
5 providing the equivalence identifier to the network application program
6 communicatively coupled with the database, the database also searchable by the
7 equivalence identifier;

1 59. (New) The article of claim 54 wherein the machine-accessible media
2 further includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:
3 determining a geographic location for the part;
4 identifying vendors of the replacement part, each vendor having a geographic
5 location; and
6 sorting the vendors according to their geographic proximity to the part.

1 60. (New) The article of claim 54 wherein the machine-accessible media
2 further includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:

3 providing a proximity preference, such preference set to a user election if such
4 election has been made, otherwise to a default value; and
5 culling the retrieved replacement information according to the proximity
6 preference.

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1 61. (New) The article of claim 54 wherein the machine-accessible media
2 further includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:
3 receiving user-specified price terms for a replacement part for the part;
4 identifying vendors of the replacement part based at least in part on the retrieved
5 replacement information;
6 identifying a sales price offered by said vendors for the replacement part; and
7 culling the retrieved replacement information according to the user-specified
8 price terms.

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1 62. (New) The article of claim 54 wherein the machine-accessible media
2 further includes data, when accessed, results in the machine performing:
3 retrieving from the database replacement related concerns, such concerns
4 including warnings and suggestions for a user seeking to replace the part; and
5 displaying the replacement related concerns.

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1 63. (New) A system for locating a replacement part for an item having one or
2 more replaceable parts, comprising:
3 a scanner for scanning an identifier for a part requiring replacement; and

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4 a device operating a network application program communicatively coupled with
5 a database searchable by at least the identifier, the database associating the part with
6 related parts of the item, if any, that should be replaced along with the part; the network
7 application program configured to retrieve replacement information from the database
8 for the part and related parts of the item, if any, that should be replaced along with the
9 first part.

1 64. (New) The system of claim 63, wherein the scanner is incorporated into
2 the device.

1 65. (New) The system of claim 63, wherein the scanner is wirelessly
2 communicatively coupled with the device.

1 66. (New) The system of claim 63, further comprising:
2 an input for the device from which may be received a restriction; and
3 wherein the network application program operates to identify at least one portion
4 of the retrieved replacement information satisfying the user restriction.

1 67. (New) The system of claim 63, further comprising:
2 an input for the device from which may be received a preference; and
3 wherein the network application program operates to arrange the retrieved
4 replacement information according to the preference.